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### THE ELIMINATION OF MR. BRYAN.

As a party leader and as a molder of public opinion, Mr. Bryan has always been peculiarly and unspeakably objectionable to the forces which have hitherto been dominant in political life. Openly they denounce him as dangerous because of his economic vagaries and his heresies and delusions relative to financial and industrial problems which have a political significance.

The opinion is also generally held and freely expressed among leaders in the larger business movements that Mr. Bryan is animated solely by personal and political ambition, and some of the industrialized and commercialized politicians even go so far as to assert that the Nebraska is politically active for the purpose of reaping a financial harvest from newspaper work and the lecture platform. Another strange phenomenon of the political life of the present generation has been the periodical announcement of Democratic bosses and machine politicians of the old order that Mr. Bryan is again dead and that his political strength has disappeared. In these days of political uncertainty we are again told by the organization leaders that his political hold has loosened, and that his discordant and disconcerting activities need no longer be feared. No one, however, who really understands the source of Mr. Bryan's political power attributes any importance to these statements.

As a matter of fact, "big business" and machine politicians underestimate the influence of Mr. Bryan because, like the Philistines in the case of Samson, they do not understand the source of his strength. According to the conventionalized standards of political intrigue, they have frequently bound him hand and foot, and cast him into political oblivion, only to be confronted by the disconcerting spectacle of his return to power entirely rejuvenated, and with his political skill and activity increased. By all the accepted rules of the game, Mr. Bryan has been put out of the running before the Democratic convention was called to order last June, but a few days after the convention assembled he attained a position of unprecedented influence, and to-day we have a Democratic President-elect whom the old-line party bosses were unwillingly forced to accept, and whose nomination was dictated by the Nebraska.

There can be no question as to weakness of Mr. Bryan's thinking on economic topics. He has not had the training to deal soundly with the technicalities and complexities of financial, industrial and commercial problems. Even his most ardent admirers will freely admit this political attitude is the expression of his moral character. He looks upon political issues from a standpoint of right and wrong. He is opposed to a protective tariff because he believes such a commercial policy is unjust and unfair. He is in favor of independence for the Philippines because the subjection of the peoples of these islands is incompatible with the political and moral principles enunciated in our Declaration of Independence. He is fighting the Aldrich scheme of a central bank because of his belief that such an institution would exploit the great mass of the people. And so on through the entire list of present-day political issues. Mr. Bryan approaches and takes his attitude towards them from the moral point of view. In attempting to present a detailed plan to express his attitude, he incurs the curses of sinister influences and becomes the despair of those who are conscientiously attempting to legislate on some complicated financial or industrial question such as banking and currency reform or the regulation of corporations.

The significant fact to be constantly borne in mind, however, is that Mr. Bryan's political attitude is identical with that of the average voter. The great majority of American citizens do not and cannot be expected to inform themselves relative to the details of financial and industrial problems which are constantly brought forward for legislative action. In many cases only experts can explain their effects. The "fakers" which have been inserted in the numerous Republican tariff bills are shining object-lessons in this respect. The average voter, therefore, as a general rule, assumes a moral attitude towards party programs. He considers a high tariff good or bad, for example, and registers his opinion accordingly. He is also accustomed to base his support for any candidate upon his impression of that candidate's integrity and zeal for the public good. When this course of action on the part of the general mass of voters is considered in connection with Mr. Bryan's own political point of view and his own unimpeachable character, the source of his remarkable

political strength is not difficult of ascertainment. Although men may consider him unsound on economic topics, when a direct issue of a general character is raised by him, the mass of voters, because of their faith in Mr. Bryan's moral and political rectitude, are inclined to support him rather than his opponents.

This popular tendency is constantly intensified by the political activities of "big business," which uses gunboat methods, intrigues with objectionable politicians, and attempts to "put something over" without securing a popular sanction. If "big business" and machine politicians are wise, and if they really had at heart the welfare of the Democratic party, they would seriously consider the lessons of the Baltimore convention. Both of these political factors are provincial in the sense of not having a wide range of vision and in not being able to adjust themselves to a new order. They know no ways but the old ways. At the present time, the old intrigues are being revived, plans are being prepared to "put over" special legislation and to once again stage the oft-repeated drama of eliminating Mr. Bryan.

We hold no brief for the Nebraska and have frequently taken issue with him. We are concerned, however, with the success of the Democratic party and with the fulfillment of the hopes which it has held forth to the people. For this reason, we wish to go on record as saying that the old order has passed. The game must be played in the open, where every move can be seen by the people. This is the only hope of Democratic harmony and success. It is, of course, not within the range of political expectation that the widely divergent factions in the Democratic party can fully agree on any program. If discord and dissension are to be avoided, there must be compromise from all sides. In order to make this adjustment possible, however, there must not be ground for lack of confidence in any faction. The Democratic voters and the American people will not tolerate any political alliances which cannot be proclaimed from the housetops, or any political action which cannot measure up to the full light of publicity. This is the temper of the times. The political leader who does not realize it now will suffer later. A necessary preliminary to a combination against or an elimination of Mr. Bryan should be a satisfactory demonstration on the part of party leaders of their sincerity and soundness of purpose. No one would object or criticize the opposition to Mr. Bryan or any other leader under these conditions. Arbitrary opposition will result in personal and party disaster.

### V. P. I. THE PEOPLES PROPERTY.

In order, however, that the school may attain its highest usefulness, the farmers and other citizens of the State must realize that it belongs to them and that any injury to its functions is a distinct loss to them. "Walter L. Mallory, of Sterling, a graduate and former member of the experimental station staff at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, in a letter to this newspaper:

The Times-Dispatch has sought repeatedly to impress the people of Virginia with that truth in demanding that an executive of uncommon fitness and demonstrated efficiency shall be chosen to lead that institution into greater service to the people. Its next chief executive should enter upon the discharge of a public trust without private obligation of any sort. He must have absolute freedom to develop the greatest function of the institution—to carry out knowledge to the people—and especially to the farming people. The University of Wisconsin has so developed that function that it is estimated that the total annual profit to the farmers of that State directly traceable to ideas introduced by the institution is \$20,000,000. Why not intrust the public property at Blacksburg to the care of an executive who will cause it to serve the State by showing the people how to increase their profits and enlarge their lives? What the people want at Blacksburg is the man who can get the best results for them.

### HONOR OR PERFDY, WHICH?

It is almost unthinkable that Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, was serious in saying that the majority of the United States Senators favor refusal to renew our arbitration treaty with Great Britain, which lapses May next, in order to escape submitting to arbitration the Panama Canal toll question. If, as seems clear to us and to thousands of others, the canal toll will be a question of good money taking refuge in a quibble to the violation of the plain letter of the third article of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, what must be said of the resource Senator McCumber intimates? It involves cowardice, repudiation, to renege a self-made blunder, or a great principle that government has been a leader champion of ever since its foundation. Virtually, and admittedly that we are determined to uphold our position, whether right or wrong, by casting self-respect to the winds and breaking a solemn contract with a friendly power.

Taking the sentiment of this nation as voiced by the reputable press of the country, irrespective of party, it puts us in the attitude of shameless declaring before the world.

"I see the right and I approve it, too. Condemn the wrong and yet the wrong course."

It involves, in short, defilement of the national honor. This is apart from all considerations of the equities of the case as embodied in the argument that the American people are entitled to and should reap some advantages from the canal over other

nations because of their immense exclusive investment in constructing the great waterway. Great Britain should, we think, recognize the force of that argument, but if she does not choose so to do, we will have none to blame but ourselves, as covenanted through our diplomats and the presidential administration under which the covenant was negotiated, signed and sealed, and we pledged our faith.

The proposition we have now to face is a momentous one, dissociated entirely from our economic, financial, commercial, shipbuilding and merchant marine interests, and transcending them all in importance as bearing upon our standing and prestige in the future among the nations of the earth. The only way to maintain and elevate these, to avoid humiliating retrogression as to both, lies in repealing the canal toll legislation, lose what we may in dollars and cents, or in agreeing to submit the issue to arbitration by The Hague or some other tribunal that may be selected, with the understanding of abiding by the decision, help or hurt whom it may.

That these are the only alternatives, if national honor is to be preserved and vindicated, must be borne in upon the mind and conscience of every thoughtful man by the conclusive protest of his government against our present attitude, and claims formally presented to the State Department Monday by Mr. Bryce, the British ambassador at Washington. The contentions of Great Britain as to the letter and the understood spirit of the third article of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and the violation of these by the canal toll bill, are unanswerable. They leave us no escape from choosing between honor and perdition.

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD PLANS.

Let us not forget that about the biggest resolution of the city of Richmond is going to make for the new year is to have a better, more efficient and economical municipal government. The rush of the holidays should not obscure the duty of making definite plans for inaugurating the Administrative Board with enthusiasm and providing a practical working basis for its immediate use. It is time to think of how this profoundly important change in government is to be made with the least friction and the speediest readjustment for the benefit of the entire community. A new institution does not happen to be a success. It must be made successful by work, by forethought, vision and courage and by active and hearty cooperation.

The members of the Board themselves do not have to be warned. They are already at work trying to measure up to their great responsibilities. The published appeal for information about local conditions that need remedying is a sign of earnest endeavor. Certainly a common-sense way of helping the city is to find out what the citizens want done. It is to be hoped that the chronic kicker will take advantage of this chance to get rid of his chronic fault-finding and grudge. If he writes it down and gives it to the men entrusted with cleaning up municipal affairs, he ought to feel better. He will at least have done something constructive. If there is a legitimate basis for his criticism, he will receive careful attention. The indolent citizen, too, might well begin to have a share in suggesting the policy he wants pursued. If things have been slipping and sliding along, let us get busy to put them in way of being done.

But, admirable as is the spirit that dictated this search for information and guidance from the taxpayers themselves, we urge the Board to formulate its own plans and tell us what they think should be done for a greater and finer Richmond. They were not chosen merely to listen to complaints and remedy what is called to their attention. They must seek out evils and discover remedies and initiate improvements. They must not be merely receptive; they must be active. Their salaries begin January 1. Their work should begin then, too. Many plans have been delayed for the new Board. Much work has been left for their execution. If they do not at once and earnestly attempt to fulfill the expectations of all optimistic citizens, they will start under a handicap. Their records are clean. They have no obligations to any one save Richmond. They have the support of all parties and all factions. In fact, everyday slang, it is up to the Board to get on the job.

Some errand disturber of the peace in a Richmond court perpetrated an immortal phrase when he pleaded in extenuation of his high licks that he was "a little drifty." If both the soft swave sound of candor in admitting fault mixed with humility seeking a trifle of human charity.

Congressman Mann wants enough mileage for his colleagues to enable them to bring their wives to Washington so as to avoid wives can keep the honorables strictly on the job. They might also serve to remind these gentlemen of the high cost of living.

In spite of his denials of political ambitions, we note that the great T. R. goes to Chicago just when there is plenty of room on the front pages.

When a fourteen-inch coast gun explodes during a test it must be admitted that the test was highly successful.

What provision is Richmond making for the Christmas joy of the poor and needy?

One way of abolishing the military canteen question would be to abolish the army.

### On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

**A Coward.**  
 "My husband is the worst coward I ever saw," said the stout lady in the street car. "He never says he is afraid to climb a stepladder to hang a picture for me."

**The Suffragist.**  
 She darned the fussing plumber  
 When he labored with the pipe.  
 She darned the corner grocer  
 When the lemons were not ripe.  
 She darned the patient butcher  
 When the steak he sent was tough.  
 She darned the washerwoman  
 When the ironing was rough.  
 She darned her poor old husband  
 When he didn't wind the clocks.  
 In fact, she darned a lot of things,  
 But she wouldn't darn the socks.

**According to Uncle Abner.**  
 Luke Purdy has written a song and sold it to a publisher. He says there is going to be a lot of money in it, and maybe there will be—for the publisher. Every man thinks his wife is going to a lot of unnecessary trouble when she cleans house.

Mrs. William Tibbitts has got a black silk dress that she has worn twenty-seven years on all social occasions. The kind they buy now lasts about twenty-seven days.  
 A statesman is a politician who gets into the Cabinet.  
 There is only one thing more uninteresting than a cold panacea, and that is a love letter written on a typewriter.

The world is full of wise guys who can't make good.  
 It is getting so the drug stores keep everything excepting automobiles.  
 Some fellows are so fond of travel that they get jobs as street car conductors.

There is only one automobile in the world, and that is owned by the fellow who happens to be talking to you.  
 A fellow who spends his money for fenceboard advertising is the same kind of a fellow who hires a \$7 man to fill a \$70 job and wonders why he doesn't get results.  
 The boss has gone out of style, and so has the boss sense.

Everything goes in vaudeville, and sometimes even the audience does.  
 There ain't a fellow in this world who hasn't at some time in his career longed to be the snare drummer in an opy house orchestra.

**The Pendulum of Time.**  
 I remember back in eighties, when Hank Frisby went to school.  
 Everybody in the village had him depended on for a fool.  
 For he was so rol-dum homely, all the critics in the place  
 Said there wasn't no intelligence or larnin' in his face.  
 He was tall, rawboned and knock-kneed, and as awkward as a cow.  
 And the girls they always passed him by and never smiled nether.  
 He was lathful and weak and awkward, and he seemed to have no vim.  
 And the fellows 'round the schoolhouse always poked their fun at him.

Nuthin' much was said about it when he left our town one day.  
 Hardly anybody knewed the fact that he had gone away.  
 Once in a while they'd mention Hank and wonder where he went.  
 But nobody ever found out, fer they didn't care a cent.  
 Nigh a dozen years passed by, and then one day a thing occurred.  
 And it caused more lively gossip than the town had ever heard.  
 Great big auto came a-tearin' down the main street with a bang.  
 And the feller in the back seat givin' orders—he was Hank.

Hank had been out West and struck a vein of ore both wide and deep.  
 And he picked up half a million while our towns folks was asleep.  
 When he jumped out of his auto, full of vigor and vim,  
 You should have seen the town folks all a-toadin' to him.  
 He put up a splendid mansion and he wed the village belle.  
 And he had his dinner ev'nin's—or at least that's what they tell.  
 He's Mayor now, and owns a mill, a railroad and a bank.  
 And there's no one in the village who ain't mighty proud of Hank.

### Voice of the People

**Recreation Centres Essential.**  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir—In reading your editorial of November 29, entitled "A Stitch in Time," I could not help but note the simile between the neglect of road maintenance and the neglect of character maintenance.

You said: "One reason there are so many bad roads is that all too often what was a good road originally is allowed to go to pieces, until it is necessary to reconstruct it in order to make it passable, and then the people balk at the cost of reconstruction."  
 How true this is of our boys and girls, who started out good as little ones, but were allowed to go to pieces, and all because they were not looked after, and later, when it becomes necessary to reconstruct (reform), there is a balk not so much at the cost, but at a lack of friendly interest.

Mr. Paine said of roads: "Their neglect with us is not due to any lack of knowledge in our engineers, but to the ignorance of the public, which prompts them to limit their appropriations to construction only."

Along the line of character construction work our public school system is of the best, and there is no lack of knowledge in our instructors. Our church and Sunday school system is equally well looked after, so it must be due to ignorance of the public, which prompts a limited appropriation or no appropriation at all toward the upkeep of character.

In conclusion you say "a stitch in time saves nine" and that "a few dollars spent at the right time in road maintenance would often save thousands that ultimately the taxpayers would be compelled to spend for reconstruction and reconstruction."

The opportunity for the citizens of Richmond to dedicate themselves anew to the work of establishing healthful recreation centres is at hand. There are about a dozen of these centres now, but, to quote Dr. Henry Lewis Smith, who made such an able address before the Virginia Educational Conference, "God pity the mind that stops growing and deadens and shallows more and more."

(A Plea by Frederick W. Emerson.)  
 A boy is but a sapling from the tree  
 That once a sapling was, as wild and free  
 And all his traits, however bad they  
 Once in some other life did brightly gleam.  
 For all the legacies that we enjoy  
 Are handed down from father to the boy.  
 And all the rights that father once employed  
 Should be maintained, and by the boy enjoyed.  
 A boy's a boy, and God intended he  
 Should be a playmate, not what he's made to be.  
 A restless boy filled with the charm of youth,  
 A loving boy adorned with living truth.  
 A noisy boy that wakes you from your sleep,  
 And without trying make you laugh and weep.  
 A merry boy that's happy all day long,  
 Whose very eyes reveal a wordless song.  
 A thoughtful boy, who proves a hero brave,  
 Who risks his life some other life to save.  
 A fighting boy, who stands up for the truth,  
 Defends a right, protects the weak, and stout youth.  
 A headless boy, that falls into the snare,  
 A strictly laid to catch him unaware.  
 A strong boy, whose efforts are in vain,  
 To reach the goal beyond, the prize to gain.  
 With heart and mind as active as a man's,  
 And body strong to execute his plans,  
 With voice as sweet as any bird that sings,  
 And happier far than all the crowned kings.  
 A boy is rude and sometimes void of grace,  
 But what is that compared with his sweet face?  
 Which lifts the heart filled with the love of life,  
 That is not born of man, but from above.  
 He wears a loving smile or hateful frown,  
 The fruit of seed by his superiors sown.  
 His heart is turned by what he sees you do,  
 Will you condemn him when he copies you?  
 Now, boys have rights that should be respected,  
 For boys make men that we delight to see.

What's become of the fellow that used to say, "If it's a fair question what did that suit of clothes suit you back?" Love may be blind, but it's got an awful keen sense of touch.

### THE FACE AT THE WINDOW.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Their youthful minds cannot be just like ours—  
 For we must have the buds before the flowers.  
 And yet the lad who seeks to do his part  
 Within the world of science or of art,  
 Surpasses us, if we the truth would tell,  
 That with our years we cannot do as well.

And that same lad may move the world some day,  
 With his great mind, which other minds obey.  
 While we look back upon the time with shame,  
 When we denied his right our time to claim.

When we condemned him for his noise  
 And chided him for many things he chose  
 When we forgot that we ourselves were boys.  
 Prepared the way for him to make his noise.

Yes, boys are boys, they cannot be much more.  
 Till time has added to their years a score.  
 And even then the spirit of the boy  
 Will rise and justly claim some new-found joy.

Their thoughts and ways may often seem quite strange,  
 Yet men will know that boy life does  
 But years will drive them from their stamping ground.  
 To climb life's famous ladder, round by round.

For boys will always want to laugh and play,  
 To run and shout and tear their clothes away.  
 And paint their native town a crimson red,  
 Regardless of the living or the dead.

'Twould not be right to see them sitting down,  
 As sober as a dragon just from town,  
 Whose shoulders have for years the burden borne.  
 While he in youth did blow his own tin horn.

And did the same things just like boys to-day,  
 Who think no harm is done in simple play.  
 But gives to life its happiness and joy,  
 Which no one knows unless he's been a boy.

A boy's a boy, say of him what you will,  
 He's put here with a mission to fulfill.  
 How well he does depends upon your care,  
 For from the boy the worthy man is made.

Think not because a boy is full of fun  
 That he is only fit for rod and gun.  
 He has a heart within his youthful breast;  
 You do your part, and he will do the rest.

Give him your heart and hand or winning smile,  
 Your love and confidence, that all the while  
 He may look up to you and see the plan  
 That God designed should be in every man.

Our boys have rights which we should not condemn,  
 And don't let us forget, because we're men,  
 To help the boys in all that youth demands,  
 That they may better follow God's commands.

By what our ears have heard and eyes beheld,  
 Our patience may be tried and faith dispelled,  
 Yet just behind the darkest cloud in sight  
 There is the silver lining shining bright.

And we shall see, at no great distant time,  
 These "horrid boys" that travel in our way,  
 Supplanting us and reigning in our stead,  
 Better by far than those now at the head.

Let us love the boys, with all their ways,  
 For life is short, and numbered are their days,  
 And let us always bear that truth in mind,  
 Which says: "Love suffereth long and is kind."

FRANK S. TOUSEY,  
 Supervisor, Church Civic Association,  
 Formerly Christ Church Association.

**Go—After Mr. Engleston.**  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
 Sir—In your issue of November 29 I noticed the following remarkable quotation from a speech of the Hon. J. D. Engleston, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and I write for enlightenment.

"I here pledge my honor, in the fear of God, that my vote in the State Board of Education next May on the

election of division superintendents will be cast with but one end in view—the good of the schools, getting the best man for the money, and for the good of the community. No sort of personal or political pressure shall weigh with me, so help me God."

Are we plain people to infer from the above pledge that, on account of "personal or political pressure" in past years, our honorable superintendent has heretofore considered expedient to cast his vote in the State Board of Education against his conscience and convictions and against the "good of our schools" and the good of our community?" If so, his "pledge" is a remarkable confession of educational political intrigue, possibly, however, somewhat of an admission of his division superintendents and their trustees, with the intent to impress upon them the importance of re-electing to the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction a God-fearing man, one that needs "help."

From the same speech I quote the following: "The trustees can help greatly in the matter of selection of the superintendents for the new term. Let us all get together. Let the trustees carefully and patriotically talk the situation over with the sole aim to get the best man for the money at their disposal. Let them make recommendations to the State Board of Education."

From above quotation I take as my text, "Let us all get together," and I would inquire if the "us all" is to include any of our "dear people," or does it refer only to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, his division superintendents and their trustees? And I would inquire further: Has not the important recommendations of our Honorable Superintendent of Public Instruction in past years been of great weight with the State Board of Education in their recommendations for the election of division superintendents? And will further, have not the trustees generally been appointed upon the recommendation of the division superintendents to their respective school trustee electoral boards?

If the answers to above questions should be in the affirmative, we plain people might infer that there "are all get together," and when the word is passed around the circle such trustees as hearken will no doubt recommend their present division superintendent as being "the best man for the money," and such division superintendents who also hearken will circulate that word of good fellowship, and then no doubt we dear people will listen to the word as proclaimed by such trustees and division superintendents and cast our votes, "in the fear of God," for an honorable, God-fearing man to be State Superintendent of Public Instruction, one who in the future will consider only the "good of our schools" and the "good of the community."

INQUIRER.  
 Lynchburg.

**For the Alien Set.**  
 A gray-haired old man sat in a chamber of fate,  
 His son in another, yes, sad to relate;  
 And the public at large is trying every way  
 To save the young fellow from the date of that day.

They say he is handsome, robust and gay,  
 And they think that the Governor should respite right away,  
 And will let his young life the penalty pay  
 For the murder committed in Hillsville one day.

Then if so young a man with a future so bright  
 Should be spared for not knowing, then please to consider the old man, that gray,  
 And turn back the calendar on that fatal day.

He has but a few years to linger at best,  
 So why not commute him along with the rest?  
 I don't think it just or the right thing to do  
 To put some in prison and electrocute two.

E. A. THURSTON

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